

REMARKS

In the Office Action of July 2, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 14 and 17 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) "as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of Figures 1-3, and as disclosed in the Specification on pages 1-4". Specifically, the Examiner asserted that:

Applicant's arguments filed in the Amendment of April 7, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not fully persuasive. The applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 18-20 are noted. However, claims 1, 14 and 17, fail to distinguish over the admitted prior art of record. There are no particulars of the one-way bearing recited in those claims. As such the rejection of those claims are deemed proper.

The Examiner also objected to Claims 2-13, 15, 16 and 18-20 "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim," but indicated that these claims "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims". Applicants thank the Examiner for this indication.

Applicants have cancelled Claim 5 and amended Claim 1 to include the limitation of Claim 5. Applicants have cancelled Claim 15 and amended Claim 14 to include the limitation of Claim 15. Applicants have amended Claims 6, 7, 10 and 16 so that they no longer depend on cancelled Claims 5 or 15.

Applicants have amended Claim 17 to include the limitation of Claim 5 that the line is constructed of flat webbing. In view of the Examiner's previous comments with regard to Claim 5, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 17-20 are allowable since none of the references cited by the Examiner show the use of a distal replaceable portion in connection with a line constructed of flat webbing.

Applicants have added new Claims 21-24: Claim 21 is a combination of original Claims 1 and 2; Claims 22 and 23 correspond to previously presented Claim 3 and original Claim 4; and Claim 24 corresponds to previously presented Claim 17 combined with Claims 18-20. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21-24 are allowable in view of the Examiner's previous comments with regard to Claims 2-4 and 18-20.

As amended, the present application now contains 22 claims of which 5 are independent. The Examiner is authorized to charge \$204.00 to Deposit Account 13-3635 for the requisite fees. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 13-3635.

Schreiber et al.  
USSN 09/899,588

**PATENT**

- 10 -

In view of the above amendments and remarks,  
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his  
rejection of Claims 1, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b),  
indicate the allowability of Claims 1-4, 6-14, 16-24, and that  
an official Notice of Allowance be issued in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



James G. Uber  
Reg. No. 30,600  
Attorney for Applicants

Mine Safety Appliances Company  
P.O. Box 426  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230  
412-967-3215 (phone)  
412-967-3309 (fax)